



*Vision- A World Class School*



# Arbor Heights' School Communicator November 30, 2011

Communication for Our Community from "Your Principal"

Dear Families,

What a wonderful assembly we had for Veterans' Day on November 7! Parents and family members joined us in honoring our Veterans on November 7 with our very own Pack 799 Cub Scouts. They did an outstanding job of presenting the colors. Thank you to Ridge McCoy, Meri Patton, and Tadia Schroeder for facilitating this. The students did a great job of reminding us how lucky we are to live in this country and enjoy the freedom that we have... and what a great opportunity to extend our thanks and appreciation to those who have dedicated their lives to protecting those freedoms.

On November 14 we had a great opportunity to spotlight Arbor Heights' second grade students at the Monday Morning Monthly Meeting where they performed their personalized ballet choreography taught by the Pacific Northwest Ballet. The second grade students were not only impressive, but very dedicated as they worked through their steps as a unified group before presenting their dance to parents and family members on Saturday, November 12. Mrs. Feagan, Ms. Nall and Ms. Crooke provided inspiration, flexibility, and commitment to our young students – *thank you!* BRAVO to all!!



## Elementary Progress Report – Pilot Update

Last month I wrote to you about the work Arbor Heights is doing in our continuous improvement efforts. Staff continues to work hard using the Continuous School Improvement process to offer your children an excellent educational program. I also want to make you aware of some of the district-wide Continuous Improvement efforts.

One very important recent improvement is the development of a "standards based report card" for elementary grades. This is an important step forward for Seattle Public Schools; the new progress reports now clearly show students progress toward meeting specific learning goals in each subject at each grade level. This information will be of great value to parents and students. Furthermore, at the end of this pilot year, a parent' guide explaining learning goals and describing ways for family involvement to enhance students' performance will be included.

I want to thank Arbor Heights' teachers who are making a great effort to align curriculum and assessments to Grade Level Expectations and learned to use the new Elementary Progress Report prior to the November Parent-Teacher Conferences. Arbor Heights' teachers and support staff are working together as a professional learning community to foster teacher-to-teacher collaboration and to enhance parent partnerships that are more intentional and effective.

I hope your experience during your child's conference proved informative and helpful information in better understanding what your child is learning here at Arbor Heights.

Please take a moment to email me at [cacollins@seattleschools.org](mailto:cacollins@seattleschools.org) to share your impressions of the new Elementary Progress Report and provide suggestions for improvement that I will happily share with the SPS Progress Report Task Force.

As always, I find it a tremendous honor to serve as Arbor Heights' Principal.

Christy



## **DECEMBER**

### **Dec 1**

-PTA General Meeting 6:30pm

### **Dec 5**

-Pacific Science Center

Assembly 9:30am- *Physics on Wheels*

### **Dec 6**

-PSC/Science on Wheels Van

-PTA Board Meeting 7:00pm

### **Dec 9**

-Barnes & Noble PJ Party 6:00pm

### **Dec 12**

-Monday Morning Monthly

Meeting 9:30am (2<sup>nd</sup> grade hosts)

### **Dec 16**

-Early Dismissal 2:00pm

### **Dec 19-Jan 2**

-No School ~ Winter Break

## **JANUARY**

### **Jan 3**

-PTA Board Meeting 7:00pm

### **Jan 9**

-Monday Morning Monthly

Meeting 9:30am/Martin Luther King



## **Emergency Drills at Arbor Heights**

As you know, each year we practice various kinds of emergency drills throughout the year so, in the event of an emergency, students and staff will know how to respond. Each month, we have either a fire or an earthquake drill. Last month, we participated in a state-wide fire/earthquake drill with evacuation.

In January, we will practice a recess lockdown drill. The purpose is to practice evacuating the playground in the case of a school lockdown. We teach the students a signal and give them a direction for moving into the building quickly. We will practice this at one primary and one intermediate recess during the month. Teachers will know ahead of time and will prepare students for the drill. At a later date, we will practice a "surprise" drill so

**FURLOUGH ½ Day – January 24 Dismissal at 12:00 PM!**

Arbor Heights' students continue to perform better each year on the Measurement of Student Progress (MSP). The 2010 MSP scores in math are the highest attained since 2008 and 84% of our third grade students demonstrate proficiency on the state reading test!

To meet a standard, students must score a level three on a scale of level one to level four. To exceed a standard, students must score a level four, the highest score possible. We are seeing fewer students who don't meet standard on the MSP. Student MSP results are one tool to assess how effective each school and the district have been in reaching their goals. The information can guide efforts to make improvements to the curriculum and refine teaching strategies. It can direct future areas of work with individual students as well as school-wide goals to meet and exceed state standards. We look forward to sharing our Continuous School Improvement Plan with our community please read more at [www.arborheights.com](http://www.arborheights.com).